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full and consecutive account that has yet been published of the restoration and remodelling of the Benedictine Order in England, abridged from the two folio volumes of Weldon's original "Memoirs," which were finished in 1709, it is to be hoped that the wants hitherto felt have, in some measure, been supplied. The editor has appended to his introductory remarks a full and interesting biographical sketch of Bennet Weldon, the pious and learned author of these "Notes."

Travels in South Kensington, with Notes on Decorative Art and Architecture in England. By MONCURE D. CONWAY. Trübner & Co. 1882.

IN this handsomely-illustrated volume, the author of "Sacred Anthology," &c., tells in an amusing, and at the same time instructive manner, a great deal that is worth knowing concerning the rise and progress of the South Kensington Museum, from its establishment in 1857 down to the present

time, and discourses at length on its collection of objects, its educational or art training method and character, and on what is to be learnt that may be useful in architecture and decoration by a study of its contents. "The little six-penny guidebook sold at the door," as our author tells us, "is necessarily provisional; the historical and descriptive volume which such an institution requires must remain a desideratum so long as the Museum itself is changing and growing daily before our eyes." In the volume under notice, Mr. Conway has attempted to do no more than convey his impression of the value of the collection as a whole, as a medium of education. He has illustrated his remarks with engravings of several interesting objects, including a Châsse, or reliquary (13th century), pastoral staves (14th century), an ancient Persian incense-burner, an Italian salt-cellar (15th century), and the Cellini sardonyx ewer, mounted in enamelled gold, and set with gems (Italian, 16th century). This last-named engraving, and also that of an ivory tankard (Augsburg, 17th century), we are enabled, by the kindness of the publishers, to reproduce as examples of the illustrations.



IVORY TANKARD (AUGSBURG, 17TH CENT.)

The second half of Mr. Conway's book, dealing with "decorative art and architecture in England," embraces a wide range of subjects, from the railway-bridge at Charing-cross and the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, to the decoration of Penkilm Castle in Ayrshire, and of Sir Walter Trevelyan's house at Wallington, in Northumberland.

Mr. Conway concludes his work with a short and graphic account of that "Utopia in brick and paint in the suburbs of London," called Bedford Park, in the neighbourhood of Turnham-green,—a little red-brick town, made up of the quaintest of "Queen Anne" houses.

Kelly's Directory of the Six Home Counties. 2 vols. Edited by E. R. Kelly, M.A., F.S.S. London: Kelly & Co. 1882.

A QUARTER of a century ago Kelly's Post Office Directory for the Six Home Counties was a modest volume of less than 1,500 pages; but such has been the increase of population in the suburbs of London of late years, that it has been found necessary to divide the work into two parts, each forming a volume, and embracing the home counties north and south of the Thames respectively. The first volume, dealing with Essex, Herts, and Middlesex, extends to over 1,500 pages, the corresponding portion of the same book in 1845 having been comprehended in rather less than 300 pages; whilst in the second volume the County of Surrey alone claims 915 out of a total of 2,474 pages. In contrasting the present edition with those of earlier years, one cannot fail to be struck with the great improvement which has taken place in the historical portion of the work, and consequently, the antiquarian and archæologist may now find plenty of food to suit his taste in the notices of the several parishes, for not only is mention made of the foundation of its church, schools, and other institutions, but short descriptions are added of its ancient castles, fortifications, hostleries, and manor-houses, where such are to be found. Exception must be taken, perhaps, in some instances to the editor's statements with respect to the styles of ecclesiastical architecture; but in such matters there is ample room for differences of opinion, for it must be remembered that until a very recent date nearly every Norman building was set down as "Saxon." However, it may be safely stated that in by far the majority of instances Messrs. Kelly's descriptions are thoroughly correct.

Les Mélanges Poétiques d'Hildebert de Lavardin. Par B. HAUREAU, Membre de l'Institut. 8vo. Paris: Pedone-Lauriel.

THE works of Hildebert de Lavardin, Archbishop of Tours, were published in 1708 by the Benedictine monk Beaugendre, in one folio volume; they comprise, as most scholars are aware, not only metaphysical treatises, but a considerable number of poems, which procured for their author, among his contemporaries, the reputation of an elegant writer and of an enthusiastic admirer of classical antiquity. We might easily fill pages with quotations testifying to the popularity enjoyed in the eleventh and twelfth centuries by him who was universally designated as the "egregius versificator," but want of space prevents us from doing so, and we shall merely transcribe, by way of specimen, the following elegiac couplets of Laurentius, Abbot of Westminster:—

"Inclutus et prosa, versuque per omnia primus,
Hildebertus olet prorsus ubique rosam.
Diversum studium fidei subservit eidem;
Multa camœna quidem tendit ad illud idem."

Students of mediæval literature are, of course, anxious to know whether Hildebert de Lavardin deserves all the praise which has been lavished upon him, and they would naturally turn either turn to Beaugendre's edition or to the reprint given in the Abbé Migne's collection, and by the Abbé Bourassé. Unfortunately, the learned Benedictine, who was nearly eighty years old when he undertook to publish the Archbishop's works,